

FACILITATING THE WORK OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

JULY 22, 1965.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. JORDAN of North Carolina, from the Committee on Agriculture and Forestry, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H.R. 5508]

The Committee on Agriculture and Forestry, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 5508) to facilitate the work of the Department of Agriculture, and for other purposes, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the bill do pass.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this bill is to make several relatively minor changes in the laws relating to the administration of the Department of Agriculture. Each section of the bill deals with a separate administrative action and each section is explained in detail in the summary and justification accompanying the executive communication, which appears later in this report.

SHORT EXPLANATION

This bill, which was requested by the Department of Agriculture, makes a number of changes in laws relating to the administration of that Department. It would—

(1) Authorize the Department to erect structures on land not owned by the Government, if it has the right to use the land for the estimated life of, or need for, the structures and the right to remove the structures thereafter; and authorize the Department to lease land for such purposes;

(2) Authorize grants for research to State agricultural experiment stations and others to implement the programs of the Department (thereby expanding the existing authority for basic research grants and extending it to applied research; existing authority, Public Law 85-934, is restricted to grants to nonprofit

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institutions of higher learning or where primary purpose is research);

(3) Authorize the Department to purchase insurance coverage on its vehicles in foreign countries (thereby extending authority now applicable to the Foreign Agricultural Service, and providing protection for the employees operating such vehicles);

(4) Authorize assignment of agricultural attachés and related personnel for duty in the continental United States, without regard to the civil service laws and without reduction in grade for not more than 3 years;

(5) Authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to release for other purposes funds set aside for agricultural market development under section 104(a) of Public Law 480, where 5 percent of the proceeds is larger than the amount needed for the market development program;

(6) Permit employees of the Department, while temporarily involved in a transfer to a State activity under the act of August 2, 1956 (70 Stat. 934), to preserve their health benefits in the same manner as benefits under the Civil Service Retirement Act and the Group Life Insurance Act are retained;

(7) Permit advances to the Department's working capital fund by agencies of the Department for whom central services are furnished through use of the fund;

(8) Authorize the Department of Agriculture to make appropriate adjustments between funds available to any agency of the Department where more than one fund is available for the same purpose; and

(9) Repeal a provision prohibiting, except in specified cases, the shipment of grain from public grain warehouses to other warehouse without cancellation of warehouse receipts (to avoid conflict with other laws regulating warehousemen).

DEPARTMENTAL VIEWS

The bill, S. 1507, identical to H.R. 5508, was transmitted to the President of the Senate by executive communication requesting its enactment and accompanying it was a detailed explanation of each section of the bill. Following is the executive communication from the Secretary of Agriculture and a section-by-section explanation of the bill.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
Washington, D.C., March 4, 1965.

HON. HUBERT H. HUMPHREY,
President of the Senate,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: Enclosed for the consideration of the Congress is a proposed bill to facilitate the work of the Department of Agriculture, and for other purposes.

This Department recommends enactment of the proposed bill.

The draft bill is identical to H.R. 7155 (88th Cong.), which was passed by the House of Representatives on November 18, 1963, except (a) the authority to designate an agricultural attaché as "agricultural counselor" under appropriate circumstances has been omitted from the revised bill, (b) specific authority for the transfer of

equipment to the working capital fund in furnishing approved central services has been omitted, and (c) a specific provision has been added to make clear that advances to the working capital fund would not extend the availability of funds.

The draft bill, as now proposed, would provide authority which we believe is needed to more efficiently and effectively administer the Department's programs. The several sections of the proposed legislation are independent, and each would provide specific authority which would facilitate the administration of the work of the Department. The draft bill would—

(1) Authorize the Department to erect research facilities or other structures on land, the use of which is secured for the estimated life of, or need for, the structures; and authorize the use of funds available to the Department for expenses in connection with acquiring the right to use land for such purposes.

(2) Authorize grants for research to State agricultural experiment stations and others to implement the programs of this Department.

(3) Authorize this Department to purchase insurance coverage on its vehicles in foreign countries.

(4) Authorize assignment of agricultural attachés and related personnel for duty in the continental United States, without regard to the civil service laws (and without change in grade where an appropriate position is not available), for not more than 3 years.

(5) Authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to release Public Law 480 funds for other purposes in cases where 5 percent of the proceeds is larger than the amount needed for the market development program.

(6) Permit employees of this Department, while temporarily involved in a transfer to a State activity under the act of August 2, 1956 (70 Stat. 934), to preserve their health benefits in the same manner as benefits under the Civil Service Retirement Act and the Group Life Insurance Act are retained.

(7) Amend the present legislation providing for the working capital fund of the Department so as to specifically provide for advances to the fund by agencies of the Department for whom central services are furnished through use of the fund.

(8) Authorize appropriate adjustments between funds available to any agency of the Department.

(9) Repeal a provision relating to shipment of grain from public grain warehouses to other warehouses without cancellation of warehouse receipts.

Attached to the draft bill are statements explaining the purpose of each of the sections of the proposed legislation.

A similar letter is being sent to the Speaker of the House.

The Bureau of the Budget advises that there is no objection to the presentation of this proposed legislation from the standpoint of the administration's program.

Sincerely yours,

CHARLES S. MURPHY,
Acting Secretary.

SUMMARY AND JUSTIFICATION OF PROVISIONS OF DRAFT BILL

Section 1. Authorize the Department to erect research facilities or other structures (but not CCC storage facilities) on land, the use of which is secured for the estimated life of, or need for, the structures; and authorize the use of funds available to the Department for expenses in connection with acquiring the right to use land for such purposes

States, land-grant colleges and universities, counties, cities, corporations, and private individuals are often willing to allow the Department to erect, maintain, and operate research facilities, and other structures on land owned by them for such period as the land may be needed. In many cases they are, however, unwilling or unable for legal or other reasons to sell or donate the land to the Federal Government. In other cases the Congress has authorized the construction of research facilities on land to be donated, and considerable delay has been experienced in completing the necessary legal arrangements for transfer of title to the Federal Government, impairing the orderly progress of urgent research activities. Under existing legal restrictions the Department is prohibited from erecting permanent facilities on land not owned by the United States, except where specifically authorized.

The proposed legislation would provide authority to the Department of Agriculture to erect structures on land, the use of which is secured for the estimated life of, or need for, the structures. It is expected that such leases would usually be obtained at a nominal cost to the United States. A structure erected under this authority would be subject to any cost limitation fixed by the Congress in appropriation or other acts. Leases would be required to provide for the Government's right to remove the structure within a reasonable time after the termination of the lease.

This authority would be similar to the authority provided to the Forest Service by Public Law 478, 81st Congress, approved April 24, 1950 (16 U.S.C. 571c). In view of the successful experience of the Forest Service in operating under this authorization, it is proposed to extend similar authority to other agencies of the Department.

This authority would probably be used largely for the construction of research facilities. It could also be used to provide facilities for quarantine, grading, insect control, inspection, and other work from time to time.

In addition, the last proviso would authorize the use of appropriations and other funds available to the Department at the time of entering into the use arrangement for expenses in connection with acquiring the right to use land for the entire period. Under present requirements the Department cannot enter into satisfactory long-term leases or other arrangements for acquiring right to use land for programs financed by annual appropriations, since it has been held that annual appropriations, may only be charged with the proportionate share of the cost applicable to the year the appropriation is available.

The authorization would exclude storage facilities under the Commodity Credit Corporation Charter Act, and would not in any manner override the proviso in section 4(h) of the CCC Charter Act prohibiting the CCC from acquiring real property, or any interest therein to provide storage facilities for any commodity unless the CCC determines that existing privately owned storage facilities in the area are not adequate.

Section 2. Authorize grants for research to State agricultural experiment stations and others to implement the programs of this Department

The Department has had authority for a number of years to make contracts and agreements authorized under the Research and Marketing Act of 1946 (Public Law 733, 79th Cong.) and Public Law 545, 83d Congress for commercialization, market acceptance, and economic feasibility of industrial utilization of agricultural products and processes and for other research activities of the Department. Public Law 85-934 provides authority to make grants only for basic research. It would be extremely helpful if broader authority were available so that the Department could make grants for applied as well as basic research, for limited periods, to State agricultural experiment stations, colleges, universities, and other research institutions and organizations and to Federal and private organizations, and individuals to further the research programs of the Department. Grants could be spread over a period of not to exceed 5 years, but would be made from appropriations current at the time the agreements are entered into. It is not intended that such grants would be used for the modification, extension, or other improvement of the grantee's facilities.

It is difficult to make a fine distinction where basic research ends and applied research begins. This could lead to legal interpretations and result in complications in making grants. Also, following basic research grants to certain institutions or individuals, research leads may develop which would require followthrough for certain phases of applied research consequent to the basic research results. For example, research on hybrid corn started with basic research by Shull of Princeton and Jones of the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, who discovered the fact of heterosis, but intimately associated applied research on yield increases due to heterosis has resulted in an increase of corn yields of 15 or 20 percent in the United States. If the authority is restricted to basic research, it would not be possible to follow up such leads under the basic research grants.

The science departments of the land-grant and other colleges and universities have experienced research people—professors and research assistants—that are capable of making substantial contributions to our research programs. Many are outstanding experts in their respective fields and could bring to bear upon the various phases of the Department's research activities unique experience and techniques. The Department's program would benefit materially by

having opportunity to avail itself through grants of this pool of talent.

Recipients of grants would be required to keep adequate records, and the Secretary of Agriculture and the Comptroller General of the United States would be given the clear right of access to such records for audit purposes.

Section 3. Authorize this Department to purchase insurance coverage on its vehicles in foreign countries

Such authority already exists regarding the Foreign Agricultural Service. The bill would extend the same authority to other agencies of the Department with employees overseas. The Department has more than 100 additional vehicles abroad, under programs administered by constituent agencies other than the Foreign Agricultural Service, most of which are trucks operating in Mexico in connection with research or control measures relating to plant pests. Other countries in which cars or trucks of this Department are located are Brazil, England, France, Italy, Iran, Kenya, Morocco, and the Netherlands.

In many foreign countries situations exist which necessitate carrying insurance on federally owned vehicles. In some cases these result from requirements of law of a country; in others, from legal procedures which result in extreme difficulty to drivers and passengers even when apparently free of actual responsibility in the circumstances of an accident. Since the provisions of the Federal Tort Claims Act are not applicable to claims arising in foreign countries (28 U.S.C. 2680(k)), employees would be forced to bear the full impact of judgment in accident cases arising out of the performance of official duties.

Some employees carry insurance related to operation of Government-owned vehicles and bear the cost out of their own pockets. For example, an employee in Morocco had to bear the insurance cost on two federally owned trucks since they were essential to our work and could not be operated without it.

Section 4 (amendment of sec. 602 of the Agricultural Act of 1954 (68 Stat. 908)). Authorize assignment of agricultural attachés and related personnel for duty in the continental United States, without regard to the civil service laws (and without change in grade, where an appropriate position at the employees' grade is not available) for not more than 3 years, not exceeding 15 employees at any one time

Under the present rotation system, it is the policy to assign employees to one or more tours of duty in the United States following periods of continuous service of over 4 years overseas. Under this program the service is strengthened both in Washington and in the field. Persons with field experience will be more valuable in positions in the United States, and persons in attaché positions will be better informed and more effective because of experience gained in dealing, on a day-to-day basis, with U.S. problems in the Department.

Problems sometimes arise in matching the grades of attachés with the grades of existing vacancies in the Department. Authorization for detail would enable the Department to make the best use of its personnel and would avoid delay or other difficulty in utilizing to the fullest the experience of agricultural attachés. Such authority is essential in operating a system of rotation of employees between agricultural attaché and similar positions at overseas posts and positions in the continental United States. Similar authority is available to the Department of State under section 961 of the Foreign Service Act.

Section 5 (amendment of sec. 104(a) of the Agricultural Trade Development Act of 1954 (7 U.S.C. 1704)). Authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to release Public Law 480 funds for other purposes in cases where 5 percent of the proceeds is larger than the amount needed for the market development program

Foreign currencies requested to be set aside for the agricultural market development program under section 104(a) of Public Law 480 amount to about \$260 million. Of this amount, 38 percent is in seven excess currency countries of Burma, India, Israel, Pakistan, Poland, United Arab Republic (Egypt), and Yugoslavia. Nearly 13 percent is in India alone.

In addition a set-aside of \$50 to \$75 million equivalent is expected from 5 percent of agreements signed each year. The percentage set aside may vary by countries but has to equal at least 5 percent of the total proceeds. The amount available for U.S. uses in nonexcess currency countries does not make it possible to substantially increase the set-aside in those countries to reduce materially the set-aside in the excess currency countries.

There are some nonexcess currency countries where 5 percent of the proceeds is larger than the amount needed for the market development program. The balance not needed by Agriculture could, with enabling legislation, be released for other U.S. uses. This cannot be done at the present time without increasing the set-aside in other countries which in most cases would have to be excess currency countries. It is not considered desirable to retain large amounts of currencies set aside for U.S. Department of Agriculture market development when prospects for their use in a reasonable period of years are extremely limited.

The proposed legislation is needed to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to release currencies not required by the Department over the period of years as determined by the Secretary.

Section 6 (amendment of sec. 4 of the act of Aug. 2, 1956).

Permit employees of this Department, while temporarily involved in a transfer to a State activity under the act of August 2, 1956 (70 Stat. 934), to preserve their health benefits in the same manner as benefits under the Civil Service Retirement Act and the Group Life Insurance Act are retained

The Department is now authorized, under the provisions of Public Law 918, 84th Congress, approved August 2, 1956 (70 Stat. 934), to interchange employees with States for a period of not to exceed 2 years. This law was enacted so the Federal Government and the several States might better cooperate in problems arising as a result of the interrelationships of their work in the field of agriculture.

Department employees who transfer to a State position under this legislation are considered to be in a status of leave of absence from their positions in the Department and are carried on leave without pay. During such status of leave of absence, the law permits the employee to retain coverage under the Civil Service Retirement Act and the Federal Employees Group Life Insurance Act of 1954, so long as he continues to make payments into the retirement fund and the life insurance fund in the proper amounts.

Due to the wording of the Federal Employees Health Benefits Act of 1959, employees who are on leave without pay may not receive health benefits coverage beyond 1 year. Thus it is possible that Department employees who are involved in a transfer to a State activity under Public Law 918 may be without coverage under the Health Benefits Act for as much as a year under a 2-year interchange. The proposed legislation would permit the employees to preserve their health benefits coverage in the same manner as benefits under the Civil Service Retirement Act and the Group Life Insurance Act are retained.

Approval of the proposal by the Congress would facilitate the Department's efforts in providing for cooperation between the Department and the States in research and regulatory activities. Employees will accept assignments more readily in State activities if their health benefits coverage is not jeopardized.

Section 7 (amendment of sec. 1 of the act of July 12, 1943 (5 U.S.C. 542-1)). Amend the present legislation providing for the working capital fund of the Department so as to specifically authorize advances to the fund by agencies of the Department for whom central services are furnished through use of the fund

The Agricultural Appropriation Act of 1944 appropriated a working capital fund of \$400,000, without fiscal-year limitation, for the payment of salaries and other expenses necessary to the maintenance and operation of various central administrative services for the agencies of the Department. This fund has made unnecessary the maintenance of separate like services in the agencies and has contributed to more economical and efficient management of the Department.

The present law provides that the working capital fund shall be *reimbursed* from appropriations made to the agencies of the Department. The fund is used for the purchase of materials, supplies, and equipment, and the payment of salaries, wages, and other necessary operating expenses in carrying out the central services, pending receipt of reimbursements.

Since 1944 additional services have been provided through the use of the fund. Also, there have been substantial increases in salaries and wages and in prices for materials and equipment. Therefore, it has become difficult to finance these services from the \$400,000 appropriated capital pending reimbursement. Additional central services may be placed under the fund in the future.

Authority for the agencies to advance funds for paying operating costs for services ordered by them would enable the Department to provide other services which may be initiated in the future, without an increase in the appropriation for the working capital. Advances would be made only on the basis of firm orders placed with the fund for specific services within the same fiscal year, and such advances would be applied in accordance with the principles set forth in section 1210 of the act of September 6, 1950 (31 U.S.C. 686-1).

Section 8. Authorize the Department of Agriculture to make appropriate adjustments between funds available to any agency of the Department

Several Department of Agriculture agencies administer programs financed from appropriations and funds which must be charged with administrative and operating costs. Programs financed from different funds often involve activities carried out under intergrated plans of work inevitably resulting in expenditures from one fund benefiting other funds.

These include (1) work camps providing eating facilities which occasionally furnish meals to employees financed from funds other than the financing fund, (2) specialized and technical services performed by personnel of one organizational unit to a unit financed from other funds, and (3) administrative costs where the exact charge to benefiting funds cannot be determined at the time payment is made. Soil testing and cartographic services are performed for the benefit of five or more funds of an agency.

In activities of this nature, benefiting several appropriations and funds, charges on individual payment vouchers cannot be practically allocated at the time each payment is made. The most practicable way to accurately charge benefiting funds with the cost of work of the type described is to record initially in one amount the total expenses and charge each fund periodically with the proper cost.

Appropriation and fund adjustment for joint costs cannot be made without specific legislative authority where the financing and the benefiting funds are administered by the

same Department of Agriculture agency, regardless of the number of funds available for program financing. Authority for the Department of Agriculture to finance materials and services from one fund of an agency and later during the same fiscal year charge benefiting funds of the same agency with the correct costs would permit improved recordkeeping and cost accounting practices. Materials and services financed under this authority would be those properly chargeable to both the financing and benefiting funds.

Where materials or services are furnished by one agency for the benefit of another Department of Agriculture or Federal agency the cost can be transferred by accounting adjustments under several authorities available to the Department of Agriculture. Section 601 of the Economy Act (31 U.S.C. 686) provides general authority to support reimbursement procedures for costs financed by other Government agencies.

Additional authorities for similar procedures are provided in such statutes, as 7 U.S.C. 1387 for reproductions of aerial or other photographs, mosaics, and maps; 16 U.S.C. 590q-1 for furnishing supplies, materials, and equipment; and 5 U.S.C. 571 for inspections, analyses, and tests of food and other products.

The proposed legislation would enable the Department of Agriculture to use accounting practices for expense financing and adjustment related to intra-agency services that is comparable with reimbursements between appropriations of different agencies. The authority would be used only where services and materials can be more efficiently and economically supplied through the adjustment practices. The proposed legislation makes clear that such adjustments would continue to be subject to any limitation applicable with respect to the appropriations concerned.

This authority would be similar to the authority provided to the Census Bureau by Public Law 87-489, approved June 19, 1962 (13 U.S.C. 14).

Section 9 (repeal of sec. 8f of the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1933 (7 U.S.C. 608f)). Repeal a provision relating to shipment of grain from public grain warehouses to other warehouses without cancellation of warehouse receipts

Section 8f of the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1933 (7 U.S.C. 608f), as originally enacted, made it unlawful, subject to a penalty of fine and imprisonment, for public warehousemen storing basic commodities to deliver such commodities from their warehouses without surrender of the outstanding warehouse receipt.

In 1940, the section was amended to permit the shipment of grain from public country grain warehouses to other warehouses without taking up and canceling warehouse receipts for such grain. This practice was to be regulated with a view to protecting the owners of the grain "under such regulations as the Secretary of Agriculture might prescribe." The prohibition in the original section was retained with respect to all other warehouses.

For a number of reasons the regulations which would be required to administer the provisions of this section have not been prescribed.

The subject matter covered by section 8f is subject matter fully covered by the uniform warehouse receipts act in the several States; by various State warehousing statutes and regulations with respect to public warehouses licensed under such statutes; by the United States Warehouse Act with respect to public warehouses licensed under that act; and by storage contracts which almost all public warehouses have entered into the Commodity Credit Corporation. Further proliferation of regulations dealing with the same subject matter appears unnecessary, especially if such additional regulations agree in part and disagree in part with regulations already governing the subject matter.

The laudable purpose of section 8f and the regulations which might be issued pursuant thereto was to achieve a further measure of protection to depositors in public warehouses. The Department feels, however, that existing machinery for regulating and policing such warehouses is much stronger than it was in 1933 or 1940. Protection has therefore been improved. The Department is also of the opinion that the most effective means of attaining additional protection lies in strengthening the warehousing statutes, regulations, and policing activities of the States and the Federal Government where a need for additional protection is found, rather than attempting new regulations and administrative machinery under the Agricultural Adjustment Act.

The Department is reluctant to incur the expense of promulgating regulations and the administrative costs of enforcing them in a field already quite fully occupied under other State and Federal authority.

For these reasons, and to avoid the confusion of contradictory treatment of the same subject matter under various statutes, we recommend that section 8f be repealed.

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW

In compliance with subsection (4) of rule XXIX of the Standing Rules of the Senate, changes in existing law made by the bill, as reported, are shown as follows (existing law proposed to be omitted is enclosed in black brackets, new matter is printed in italic, existing law in which no change is proposed is shown in roman):

AGRICULTURAL ACT OF 1954

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TITLE VI—AGRICULTURAL ATTACHÉS

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SEC. 602. (a) To effectuate the carrying out of the purposes of this title, the Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to appoint such personnel as he determines to be necessary and, with the concurrence of the Secretary of State, to assign such personnel to service abroad,

and the Secretary of Agriculture may place not to exceed eight positions in grade 16 and two in grade 17 of the General Schedule of the Classification Act of 1949, as amended, in accordance with the standards and procedures of that Act and such positions shall be in addition to the number authorized in section 505 of that Act.

(b) Officers or employees assigned or appointed to a post abroad pursuant to this title shall have the designation of Agricultural Attaché, or other titles or designations, which shall be jointly agreed to by the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Agriculture.

(c) Upon the request of the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of State shall regularly and officially attach the officers or employees of the United States Department of Agriculture to the diplomatic mission of the United States in the country in which such officers or employees are to be assigned by the Secretary of Agriculture, and shall obtain for them diplomatic privileges and immunities equivalent to those enjoyed by Foreign Service personnel of comparable rank and salary.

(d) The President shall prescribe regulations to insure that the official activities of persons assigned abroad under this title are carried on (1) consonant with United States foreign policy objectives as defined by the Secretary of State; (2) in accordance with instructions of the Secretary of Agriculture with respect to agricultural matters; and (3) in coordination with other representatives of the United States Government in each country, under the leadership of the Chief of the United States Diplomatic Mission.

(e) *Any officer or employee appointed and assigned to a post abroad pursuant to this title may, in the discretion of the Secretary of Agriculture, be assigned for duty in the continental United States, without regard to the civil service laws (and without reduction in grade if an appropriate position at the employee's grade is not available in any agency of the Department of Agriculture), for a period of not more than three years: Provided, That the total number of such employees assigned for duty in the continental United States under this provision shall not exceed fifteen at any one time: Provided further, That this Act shall not increase the number of persons employed at grade GS-16, GS-17, or GS-18.*

AGRICULTURAL TRADE DEVELOPMENT AND ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1954

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SEC. 104. Notwithstanding section 1415 of the Supplemental Appropriation Act, 1953, or any other provision of law, the President may use or enter into agreements with friendly nations or organizations of nations to use the foreign currencies, including principal and interest from loan repayments, which accrue under this title for one or more of the following purposes:

(a) To help develop new markets for United States agricultural commodities on a mutually benefiting basis. From sale proceeds and loan repayments under this title not less than the equivalent of 5 per centum of the total sales made each year under this title after the date of this amendment shall be set aside in the amounts and kinds of foreign currencies specified by the Secretary of Agriculture and made available in advance for use as provided by this subsection over such period of years as the Secretary of Agriculture determines will most effectively carry out the purpose of this subsection: *Provided,*

That the Secretary of Agriculture may release such amounts of the foreign currencies so set aside as he determines not to be needed, within a reasonable period of time, for such purpose: Provided further, That no such funds shall be allocated under this subsection after June 30, 1960, except as may be specified, from time to time, in appropriation acts. Provision shall be made in sale and loan agreements for the convertibility of such amount of the proceeds thereof (not less than 2 per centum) as the Secretary of Agriculture determines to be needed to carry out the purpose of this subsection in those countries which are or offer reasonable potential of becoming dollar markets for United States agricultural commodities. Such sums shall be converted into the types and kinds of foreign currencies as the Secretary deems necessary to carry out the provisions of this subsection and such sums shall be deposited to a special Treasury account and shall not be made available or expended except for carrying out the provisions of this subsection. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, if sufficient foreign currencies for carrying out the purpose of this subsection in such countries are not otherwise available, the Secretary of Agriculture is authorized and directed to enter into agreements with such countries for the sale of surplus agricultural commodities in such amounts as the Secretary of Agriculture determines to be adequate and for the use of the proceeds to carry out the purpose of this subsection;

ACT OF AUGUST 2, 1956

(70 Stat. 934)

* * * * *

SEC. 4. Employees of the Department participating in an exchange of personnel as authorized in section 3 may be considered during such participation to be (1) on detail to a regular work assignment of the Department, or (2) in a status of leave-of-absence from their positions in the Department. Employees who are considered to be detailed shall be entitled to the same salary and benefits to which they would otherwise be entitled and shall remain employees of the Department for all other purposes except that the supervision of their duties during the period of detail may be governed by agreement between the Department and the State involved. Employees who are in a leave-of-absence status as provided herein shall be carried on leave without pay: *Provided*, That they may be granted annual leave to the extent authorized by law and may be granted authorized sick leave only in circumstances considered by the Secretary to justify approval of such leave. Except as otherwise provided in this Act, such employees shall have the same rights, benefits, and obligations as employees generally who are in such leave status but notwithstanding any other provision of law such employees shall be entitled to credit the period of such assignment (1) toward periodic and longevity step-increases, and (2) upon payment into the retirement fund of the percentage of their State salary which would have been deducted from a like Federal salary for the period of such assignment, to credit such period as service within the meaning of the Civil Service Retirement Act; and they shall also be entitled to continuation of their [insurance] benefits under the Federal Employee's Group Life Insurance

Act of 1954 and the *Federal Employees Health Benefits Act of 1959*, so long as the Department continues to collect the employee's contribution from the employee and to transmit for timely deposit into the employees' life insurance fund or the employees' health benefits fund, as the case may be, the amount of the employee's contribution, and the Government's contribution from Department appropriations. Any employee who participates in an exchange under the terms of this section who suffers disability or death as a result of personal injury arising out of and in the course of an exchange, or sustained in the performance of duties in connection therewith shall be treated, for the purpose of the Federal Employees' Compensation Act, as amended (5 U.S.C., 790), as though he were an employee, as defined in such Act, who had sustained such injury in the performance of such duty, but shall not receive benefits under that Act for any period for which he elects to receive similar benefits from a State agency.

ACT OF JULY 12, 1943

(57 Stat. 392)

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WORKING CAPITAL FUND

For the establishment of a working capital fund, \$400,000, without fiscal year limitation, for the payment of salaries and other expenses necessary to the maintenance and operation of (1) central duplicating, photographic, and tabulating services, (2) a central motor-transport service for the maintenance, repair, and operation of motor-transport vehicles and other equipment, (3) a central supply service for the purchase, storage, handling, issuance, packing, or shipping of stationery, supplies, equipment, blank forms, and miscellaneous materials, for which stocks thereof, not to exceed \$200,000 in value (except for the value of blank forms) at the close of any fiscal year, may be maintained sufficient to meet, in whole or in part, requirements of the bureaus and offices of the Department in the city of Washington and elsewhere, and (4) such other services as the Secretary, with the approval of the Director of the Bureau of the Budget, determines may be performed more advantageously as central services; said fund to be [reimbursed] *credited with advancements or reimbursements* from applicable funds of bureaus, and agencies for which services are performed on the basis of rates which shall include estimated or actual charges for personal services, materials, equipment (including maintenance, repairs, and depreciation) and other expenses: *Provided, That such advances shall not be available for any period beyond that provided by the Act appropriating the funds: Provided further, That such central services shall, to the fullest extent practicable, be used to make unnecessary the maintenance of separate like services in the bureaus, offices, and agencies of the Department: Provided further, That a separate schedule of expenditures and reimbursements, and a statement of the current assets and liabilities of the working capital fund as of the close of the last completed fiscal year, shall be included in the annual budget.*

Total, Office of the Secretary, \$1,898,184.

AGRICULTURAL ADJUSTMENT ACT OF 1933

(Section 8f, as amended)

(54 Stat. 1019; 7 U.S.C. 608f)

【Sec. 8f. No person operating a public warehouse for the storage of any basic agricultural commodity in the current of interstate or foreign commerce shall deliver any such commodity upon which a warehouse receipt has been issued and is outstanding without prior surrender and cancelation of such warehouse receipt, except that any person operating a country public grain warehouse or warehouses may, because of lack of sufficient space to accommodate all depositors, move storage grain out of such warehouse or warehouses to another warehouse for continuous storage, under such regulations as the Secretary of Agriculture may prescribe. A non-negotiable warehouse receipt shall be issued by the warehouseman to whom the grain was shipped, and said receiving warehouseman shall give such guaranty and shall store such grain under such regulations as the Secretary of Agriculture may prescribe to assure delivery to the rightful owner of such grain in the amount, and of the kind, quality, and grade called for by his receipts. Any warehouseman who intends to ship grain while his original receipt is outstanding must recite in his receipt both the name and address of his warehouse as well as that of the warehouse to which the grain may be shipped for further storage. All grain shipped under this section must be shipped under a non-negotiable bill of lading. Any person violating any of the provisions of this subsection shall, upon conviction, be punished by a fine of not more than \$5,000, or by imprisonment for not more than two years, or both. This Act shall not be construed as amending or changing in any manner the United States Warehouse Act of August 11, 1916, as amended.】



The first thing I noticed when I stepped out of the car was the cold, crisp air. It was a relief after the warm, humid air of the city. I walked towards the building, my eyes taking in the architecture. The building was a mix of old and new, with traditional Chinese elements and modern glass and steel. I felt a sense of awe and wonder as I approached the entrance. The door was open, and I stepped inside. The interior was a vast, open space with high ceilings and large windows. The light was bright and natural, creating a warm and inviting atmosphere. I walked through the hallways, my footsteps echoing on the polished floor. The walls were covered in traditional Chinese paintings and scrolls, adding to the cultural richness of the space. I felt a sense of pride and accomplishment as I explored the building, knowing that I was a part of something special. The journey had been long and challenging, but it was worth it. I had reached my destination, and I was ready to start my new life. The future was uncertain, but I was confident that I could overcome any challenges that came my way. I was a strong and resilient person, and I knew that I could make a difference in the world. I was ready to take on the world, and I was ready to start my new life. The journey had been long and challenging, but it was worth it. I had reached my destination, and I was ready to start my new life. The future was uncertain, but I was confident that I could overcome any challenges that came my way. I was a strong and resilient person, and I knew that I could make a difference in the world. I was ready to take on the world, and I was ready to start my new life.